

A Great Place for a Childhood

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May 2013



From Brandi's Desk

Teacher Appreciation Month

We have a wonderful group of parents who have planned a month full of fun activities and rewards for our "First Class" Teachers. Be sure to check out the second page of the newsletter and our calendar of events to find out how you can participate in the fun. We have some fun dress-up days planned for kids and teachers.

Well Aware Open House

Thursday, May 23 4:30pm-6:00pm

All families are invited to our WellAware Open House! Join us to learn how Bright Horizons helps children build the foundation for a lifetime of healthy habits. Your family will:

- Learn more about our WellAware curriculum and health and safety practices
- Participate in WellAware-themed activities with your child
- Take part in our 'Movement Matters Family Fitness Challenge' (and win prizes!)
- Enjoy healthy snacks and refreshments
- Spend time with other families at our center

Gardens and Grounds Day

Join us between 9am and 2pm on Saturday, May 4th to help the Garden Gnomes plant the garden boxes, flower boxes, build a worm compost bin, make a natural digging area, and much more. You can sign-up near the check-in computer. Kids are welcome to help, too.

Important Dates

May 4th Gardens and Grounds Day 9am-2pm
May 10th Mother's Day Treats 7am-10am
May 13th Kindergarten Prep "Specials" Week 1
May 20th Kindergarten Prep "Specials" Week 2
May 23rd Well Aware Open House
May 27th Center Closed
May 31st Last Chance for Enhanced Referral Bonus

*See the Teacher Appreciation Calendar for more dates

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to...

April 27th Lewy (P-4)
April 30th Kathy (Preschool afternoon)

Happy Anniversary to...

May 19th Karina (Infants) 2 years

Good News – You Can Still Earn a \$500 Tuition Credit!

The Enhanced Family Referral Program has been extended through May 31. Now is the time to take advantage of the \$500 tuition credit and \$50 off registration. Simply tell a friend about our center and invite other families to see all that we have to offer. If your friend enrolls you'll receive a \$500 tuition credit (\$300 for part-time) and your friend will receive ½ off their registration fee. [Click here](#) to start referring today!

Help us Celebrate our “First Class” Teachers !



Thursday Treats- Help us transform the teacher's lounge into their favorite countries on Thursdays! Look for emails and postings from the Parent Partnership Representatives from your child's age groups for information on how to help.

Thursday, May 2 nd	Two's Parents will bring Mexican inspired treats and decorations
Thursday, May 9 th	Toddler Parents will bring French inspired treats and decorations
Thursday, May 16 th	P-1 and P-2 Parents will bring Italian inspired treats and decorations
Thursday, May 23 rd	The Admin Team and School Age Parents will bring Caribbean inspired treats and decor
Thursday, May 30 th	The Infant and Kindergarten Prep Parents will bring Chinese inspired treats and decor

Terrific Teacher Travel Bags--The Parent Partnership Group is organizing Terrific Teacher Travel Bags for the week of **May 13th**. The group came up with a list of suggested items to add to the bags, or parents may bring in a bulk pack of items to be divided among the bags. The below-listed items are just suggestions, contribute as your budget allows. Teachers will bring the bags home on May 17th, the center will provide the actual bags.

Monday: **Little Travelers--**Bring in a picture of your child on vacation.

Tuesday: **Summer Vacation Is Coming!--**Bring in an item to prepare your child's teachers for their summer vacation. Possibilities include a travel-sized product, a makeup bag, sunscreen, a towel, or magazines to take on a plane or a gift card to Target or another store from which your child's teacher would love to buy a new item to pack for the trip.

Wednesday: **Postcard of Appreciation--**Take the time to drop your child's teacher a postcard or note letting them know how much that teacher means to your child and your family.

Thursday: **Heading Down the Road--**Bring an item that would come in handy on a road trip. You could bring a favorite snack, candy, gas card or a gift card to a restaurant you would find on a road trip.

Friday: **Vacation Fun--**Bring an activity for your child's teacher to do while on vacation. Examples include a pretty deck of cards, a travel scrabble game, a new bottle of nail polish or a good book (ask your child's teacher if there is anything they have been meaning to read).

Teacher Appreciation Dinner

It has become an annual tradition at Bright Horizons RCC to cap off Faculty Appreciation month by treating the teachers and staff to dinner at a restaurant on the last Friday of the month. This dinner, which will also serve as an awards ceremony, is a wonderful opportunity to show the teachers how much we value everything they do for our children. It also allows them to spend time with all of the teachers in the center, something that all of the teachers enjoy very much. Please join me in helping to carry on this tradition by making a donation towards this year's dinner. Donation slips will be distributed in early May.

Sincerely,

Erica King on behalf of the Parent Partnership Group

What is School Readiness?



READY for SCHOOL Parent News: What does School Readiness Really Mean?

A report that grew out of a partnership of 17 states identified five factors most important in children who are ready for school or what the report calls “Ready Children”. These factors included:

- **Overall physical well-being and motor development:** Children possessing age-appropriate fine motor skills which involve coordinating their eyes and hands to complete tasks such as stacking blocks; putting together puzzles; connecting building toys like Legos®; drawing and using a paint brush; or writing, typically experience success in school.
- **Social and emotional development:** Children who interact positively with other children typically also do well in a school setting. Many of the skills children learn from their families and in child care such as taking turns, sharing, listening to others, developing empathy, and functioning as part of a group, help with school success.
- **Approaches to Learning:** The ability to follow through on one-step directions (“Hang up your coat”) or multi-step directions (“Get some crayons, take them to the writing table and have a seat”) is another school readiness indicator. Cooperativeness, persistence, independence, curiosity and creativity are also important.
- **Cognition and General Knowledge:** Developing an observant, inquisitive mind which looks at, labels, asks questions, notes similarities and differences, and solves problems is another important school skill.
- **Language Development and Literacy:** The development of a significant talking (expressive) and understanding (receptive) vocabulary is important as well as later recognizing the relationships between letters and sounds.

Not surprisingly, only one of these factors, recognizing the connection between letters and their sounds, is what we typically think of as a school readiness skill. Instead, a well-rounded child who interacts well with others, follows directions, effectively uses her hands to manipulate small parts, and has an inquisitive mind, possesses key readiness skills.

Also not surprisingly, the report states that families can play a critical role in preparing their children for school success is by reading to them daily, starting when children are infants and toddlers. Enrollment in high quality child care programs is another factor in school success.

For more information, you won’t want to miss the May 7th webinar, **Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs** with Ellen Galinsky. This session will provide even further insight into the key school and life readiness skills that may be less familiar to parents. To register, **please visit** www.brighthorizons.com/mindinthemaking.

Families and teachers working together can help ensure that all our children are *READY for SCHOOL*.

Reference: *Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative – A 17 State Partnership.*

(February 2005). Sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Kauffman Foundation and the Ford Foundation. Prepared by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

Parent Webinar Series



JOIN US for our next Parent Webinar!

MIND in the Making

Bright Horizons, in conjunction with Families and Work Institute invites you to join Ellen Galinsky for our next parent webinar about the skills adults and children need in order to succeed in the 21st century.

**Mind in the Making: Executive Function and the Seven Essential Life Skills
Every Child Needs
Tuesday, May 7, 2013
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. EST**

For over a decade, Ms. Galinsky has worked with top researchers from across the country, filming their experiments and studying their results how we learn best. In her recently released highly acclaimed best selling book, *Mind in the Making* (Harper Collins 2010), she identifies seven life skills that are essential to success—in school, the workforce and in life.

During the webinar, Ellen will outline the meaning and importance of Executive Function of the brain and why they underlie Life Skills, describe the seven essential Life Skills, as well as provide parents with easy everyday things they can do to foster these Life Skills in their children and themselves. Attendees will see videos of researchers “in action” sharing studies on the topic, and gain the ability to apply what is presented not only to parenting techniques but adult learning as well. In addition, 5 lucky webinar attendees will receive a free copy of *Mind in the Making*.

To register for this webinar, please visit www.brighthorizons.com/mindinthemaking.

Presenter Bio: Ellen Galinsky, President and Co-Founder of Families and Work Institute (FWI)

*Ellen Galinsky helped establish the field of work and family life while at Bank Street College of Education, where she was on the faculty for twenty-five years. Her more than forty-five books and reports include the highly acclaimed *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*, *Ask The Children* and the now classic *The Six Stages of Parenthood*. She has published over 125 articles in academic journals, books and magazines. At the Families and Work Institute, she oversees the largest nationally representative studies of the U.S. workforce and workplace.*

Ms. Galinsky holds a Master of Science degree in Child Development/Education from Bank Street College of Education, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Study from Vassar College and numerous honorary doctoral degrees. She is a past President of the National Association of the Education of Young Children. Ellen Galinsky is married to artist Norman Galinsky, and they are the parents of two grown children: Philip and Lara.

Connect with Bright Horizons



Did you know... Bright Horizons has a new website! Visit our new **Family Resources** page to access resources for growing families including: parent webinar archives, eFamily news articles, learning at home activities and more!

Check out our Facebook page for your chance to ‘Discover Family Resources and Win’ an iPad mini! (Contest ends 5/3)